

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXV.]

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MARRIAGES

On March 28th, at Shanghai, JAMES ARTHUR TREVOR THOMAS to RUBY ELLEN, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. A. E. FLAGG, of Shanghai.

On March 28th, 1907, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., RICHARD, son and grandson respectively of HENRY AYLMER-COATES and Capt. RICHARD AYLMER-COATES, both formerly of the Connaught Rangers, to CLARA MARIA, second daughter of JOHN NICHOLSON SEYMOUR, M.B.

DEATH.

On March 10th, at Chefoo, LOUIS HENRY SMITH, aged 41 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD (C).
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The English Mail of 8th March arrived, per the s.s. *Arcadia*, on Thursday, the 4th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

EPITOME.

A quiet week has elapsed since the holidays, the only two "sensations" being the announcement of Sir Mathew Nathan's departure, and the continued fall of the dollar exchange.

The nature of Sir Mathew Nathan's new appointment has not been divulged, although we applied for an authoritative statement. Speculation is consequently busy, and the favourite suggestion is that the Governor has "dropped in for something permanent at the War Office."

The Hon. Mr. F. H. May is expected to receive the substantive appointment as successor to Sir Mathew Nathan, notwithstanding that there are governors for whom the appointment would mean a step up. Locally, however, Mr. May's appointment is considered obviously fitting.

Strong appeals are being made for money for the Robert Morrison Memorial. We give a full report of the latest meeting at Canton.

There is nothing particularly new about an execution in China, but owing to the reputation of Yuan the Pirate, and the exceedingly able description of his end, the article headed "Notorious Pirate Executed" deserves special attention.

Company meetings have been quite common. Many of them were semi-formal meetings to alter Articles, owing to J. M. & Co., adding the "Ltd" to their famous name. Reports will also be found of numerous business meetings at both Shanghai and Hongkong.

The editorial comments owing to mail matter being of unusual interest, are concerned more than usual with questions not exclusively relating to China.

The Harbour Master's report for 1906 will be found of interest by those still in doubt as to the tonnage pre-eminence of Hongkong.

Most of the matters mentioned at the annual meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, of which a report appears in this issue, have been touched upon previously.

Another old Shanghai hand has passed away in the person of Mr. John Cooper, land, estate and general commission agent. He arrived in 1864 and was till the late eighties connected with the firm of Messrs. Cumine and Co., when he started on his own account. He was well known throughout China and had many friends who will miss him. He leaves a wife behind to mourn his loss. He died on Sunday morning, March 24th, at the age of 64 years.

At the Marine Court on April 3rd the coxswain of the steam launch *Aggie* appeared before Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master to answer a summons charging him with blowing the whistle of that launch, on the 29th March, other than for the purpose of vigation. Evidence was given by P. C. Berrie. The defendant stated that he was ordered to sound his whistle by his owner, who was on board at the time. The owner Mr. Chr. Witzke, said: "I was in a great hurry to get at the other launch and I gave the order to the coxswain. I knew it was an improper use to put the whistle to. I am sorry." The summons against the coxswain was dismissed, and the owner was fined \$25.

JERVOIS STREET FIRE INQUIRY.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on April 3rd an inquiry was held concerning the fire which occurred in the piece goods shop at 72 Jervois Street on January 21st.

Mr. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Locker and Deacon) appeared for the Insurance Companies, (the Liverpool and London and Globe, and Western Insurance Companies, Messrs. William Meyerink and Co., agents) and Mr. F. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkison and Grist) for the insurers, the Kwong Sui Un firm.

His Worship—What do you contend in this case? That there was not the stock in the shop claimed on?

Mr. Grist—Yes, that appears to be the only suspicious circumstance about the case, and that we submit is not a suspicious circumstance in as much as he had the stock there.

His Worship—I think we had better go on with that part of the inquiry.

Mr. Atkinson—We dispute the quantity of goods on the first floor, but there is no question about the goods on the ground floor. The goods on the first floor were valued at \$11,700. We say there was nothing there.

His Worship—Not even \$10 worth?

Mr. Atkinson—Not even a cent's worth.

Li Chai-sang, declared, said he was managing partner of the Kwong Sui Un firm, which was destroyed by fire while he was away in Canton. The value of goods on the first floor at the time of the fire was between \$9,000 and \$10,000; and on the ground floor about \$8,000 or \$9,000. The stock on the first floor consisted of silk and white cotton cloth. He had claimed against the Insurance Companies for \$11,700, the amount being made up from his books.

Mr. Grist—Are the books properly kept?

His Worship—I think you'll get only one answer to that.

Proceeding, witness said he had three insurance policies, two with Messrs. Meyerink and Co. for \$14,000, and one with Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. for \$7,000.

Cross-examined—All the goods on the first floor were stored in the one place.

Witness was further examined regarding the formation of the floor, also concerning the various articles which went to make up the claim. The hearing then adjourned.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

March 28th.

OR SOBERLY DISCUSSING.

Taotai Lai Kwai Pui and Chung Chung Kok (Hanlin) have started a new paper here, called the "Railway Equitably Debating Press."

POLICE SQUEEZE.

It appears that the police have been giving the theatres here no end of trouble. It is reported that a few days ago several police went to the Honam Theatre to reserve some seats for their comrades. They went in without first purchasing tickets at the gate. The gatekeepers refused to pass them, and the result was a quarrel, which ended in a free fight between the parties, and the arrest of two gatekeepers. The chief of police at Honam ordered the performance to be stopped until the case was tried. The trial came on yesterday, and the theatre was fined several thousand dollars. Owing to many forward contracts having been entered into with various theatrical troupes the proprietors paid, and a performance was given last night.

WHOLESALE EXECUTION.

Yesterday 37 prisoners were beheaded at Kong Po Military Station near Canton. Their crimes were piracy and robbery.

BRIDEGROOM ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

The 3.30 p.m. train was very crowded yesterday. A passenger surnamed So who boarded the train at the Three Eyed Bridge had to stand on the landing of the train. He was on his way home (Fai Jai Sin village) to get married. When the train was approaching the Five Eyed Bridge he overbalanced himself, fell over, and was instantly killed.

TREATMENT OF NON-WHITE RACES.

(Daily Press, 1st April).

An article of some significance, as indicating the drift of public opinion at home, appeared a short time back in the London *Times* with reference to the position of European nations, *vis-a-vis* what the writer designates the "non-white races." It is evident that this subject is beginning to exercise the attention of the authorities at home and is becoming recognised as of much more than merely academic interest; and as undoubtedly coming within the range of practical politics. It is not difficult to read between the lines that the intention of the article is partly as a "feeler," and partly to prepare public opinion for changes of a radical nature in our dealings with Asiatic nations, and more particularly with China and Japan. The immediate occasion of the article was the trouble which arose in the United States with reference to the exclusion of Japanese school children from the schools in San Francisco; but this is only made a text for a general disquisition upon the whole subject in which views are put forward which go counter to many time-honoured and generally-accepted theories upon our relations with "non-white" peoples. The writer holds that the time has come for the white races "to take a fresh survey of the whole situation and to recognise that in the changed conditions, their old haughty and dictatorial attitude stands in need of modification." The claim to spread the blessings of civilization among non-white people which has hitherto been made the justification of much that has been done in the Far East is declared to be only an excuse on the part of Western nations for furthering their own interests; and to be no longer tenable in face of the fact that in many directions, and of course notably in Japan, Eastern nations have only too well adopted European civilizations, and have in fact in certain instances bettered the instruction. "We have," the writer urges "to deal with the entry of a new industrial force into what have been the practical preserves of the white races." This is the case not only in Japan but also in India, where the non-white populations are seeking outlets for goods, the manufacture of and commerce in which have hitherto been exclusively in the hands of Europeans. This, it is justly pointed out, is becoming a serious matter, as "white industry has thus to face a new competitor possessing the enormous economic advantage of producing at a very low cost and capable of enormous expansion before any great rise in the price of abundant labour can be anticipated."

The facts set forth are beyond dispute, but the general deduction from them may certainly be questioned. There has of course been a certain amount of cant in the phrases which have been used as to spread of civilization and religion among Eastern nations. This has, as everyone knows, not been the primary object in establishing relations with them. That object was simply and plainly to advance trade and not specially to civilize the nations whom we wished to make our customers. It is however going too far to ignore that the latter effect has been largely produced; and we may take the credit that while trade has been our primary and avowed object, there have been many who have earnestly and sincerely worked towards raising the "non-white" races with whom we came into contact in the scale of civilisation. The object of the article under notice is, of course, to reconcile people at home to the fact that the day has passed when

it is possible to assume any high-handed attitude with regard either to China or Japan, and that these countries have adopted so much of our civilization already that in future we shall be compelled much more than formerly to consider their point of view in questions that may arise. This will hardly be denied by any who have had occasion to watch critically the changes that have gradually taken place during the past fifty years. There has been not only commercially but also politically an amount of substantial progress in the relations of East and West; and it is not accurate to talk of the "haughty and dictatorial" attitude of former days as unsuited to the present day without noticing the causes which made it apparently high-handed in the past, and the modification of those causes, which may make a different attitude reasonable and desirable in the present. In our early intercourse not only with China but also with the now liberal Japan, we had to assert the principle that no nation, whatever its particular views may be as to its own civilization, had the right to refuse all intercourse, commercial and diplomatic, with other nations. We did not say, as the *Times* writer put it, that the "earth really belongs to the white man to be appropriated by him as and when and how it suits his convenience"; but, that no nation had a right to exclude him from legitimate intercourse; or indeed from intercourse of any kind, which was what both China and Japan claimed to do. The latter principle has been now fully conceded; and in consequence certain problems both economic and diplomatic have arisen which no doubt will require careful consideration and judicious handling. That such questions have sprung up is however surely no reason for deprecating the attitude which we were forced to assume in earlier times; or for waxing wondrous virtuous and deprecating the haughtiness of our dealings with a nation which dubbed us "foreign devils" and "outer barbarians," and was quite willing to try issues with us, whether they could force us once and for all from their shores. The effect of such argument will scarcely be to facilitate the solution of the "delicate questions" which the writer observes are arising in the British Empire. Such questions will have to be settled upon grounds of common sense and with reference to the plain facts actually existing, and can only be further complicated by raising the ghosts of old controversies which had their raison d'être in their day, but are by no means applicable to the problems which have to be dealt with under the improved relations, social, commercial and diplomatic which exist at the present time.

WAR MAKERS.

(Daily Press, April 2nd.)

A war between England and America is only a matter of time, and it is inevitable that the United States will revert to the crown and flag they properly belong to. These foolish words, though written on the first day of April, are not intended as an "April Fool" performance. We have set them down deliberately, in the hope of shocking people into a clearer recognition of the folly and wickedness of the sort of things lately being said in the Press of other lands. It is so easy to write that sort of thing, and so easy to proffer, because an "inevitable war" still remains inevitable though indefinitely postponed. We might have carried the shocking process to a greater length, and dilated on the

abuses that could be eliminated from America by the imposition of the British constitution and methods of administration, but the opening sentence will, we trust, suffice. The London papers are but enough sometimes; the German papers have recently gone to sorry lengths; but the American papers have been going beyond all bounds of reason; and the public, instead of being horrified, is getting so used to it as to become callous and unsentimental. Sections of it, indeed, appear to be impressed, and there is no telling the extent of the mischief such malevolent penny-a-liners may do. It was not long since, while the Russo-Japanese war was waging, that a section of the American press was eager for war with Germany. Now it is all for war with Japan. The German papers in respect of their references to Japan do not fall far short. The French papers, we regret to note, have lately been making will accusations against Germany in Morocco. The authors of all these philippics, it seems not unfair to assume, are not particular who fights so long as they can promote a war somewhere. It is diabolical, and before many years have passed, we expect the Governments of the world will have begun to consider the possibility of muzzling such embarrassing meddlers. We have no faith in universal disarmament or similar Hague ideals, but we do think the Hague conferences might be worse employed than in devoting some attention to this aspect of affairs. War is not a thing to be abolished, being woven into the warp and woof of human nature, but such wanton provocations there-to ought to be discouraged with all the firmness that Governments can show, and with all the disapproval which the general public can express. At the moment we have not filed any specimens from American papers, though we have encountered many; but we may quote as examples of the general type the following:

The *Vossische Zeitung* of February 21st discussed the possibility of the outbreak of a war between Japan and the United States. This war, it considers inevitable, the only question being the time which the Japanese will regard as most opportune for its commencement. It would be America's interest to postpone the conflict, whereas the sooner it is begun the more favourable are Japan's chances. The undoubted results of such a war at the present moment would, says the *Vossische*, be the certain loss for America of her Pacific Squadron and of her East Asiatic Colonies, as well as the ruin of her East Asiatic trade, and probably the devastation of her Pacific coast. On the other hand, Japan cannot undertake a war without money, and the Liberal organ can "hardly conceive of England taking steps to support a conflict in itself deplorable enough which might involve her in a world-war." Japan might, however, be induced to undertake a war with America, even at the risk of totally demoralising her finances, while Russia is unable to take a prominent part in the solution of the Pacific question. The Liberal organ concludes: "Which consideration will have more influence on Japanese decisions we shall soon learn. Whatever the decision may be, it seems to us almost inevitable that Japan will commence war before the Panama Canal is ready."

In a leading article on the same subject, the *Conservative Reckoner* says that the United States had no alternative but to give way momentarily on the Californian question, but "although this issue was anticipated, the spectacle of 80 millions truckling to the yellow islanders merits the most serious attention." The *Reckoner* considers that the situation will become still more complicated when Australia is placed in the same position as the United States towards the Japanese question. It also fears that German interests in the Pacific may come in conflict with the Japanese expansion.

movement, for the Marianne and Caroline Islands are an obstacle to the Japanese advance. The *Reichsbote* consoles itself with the thought that for the present Japan desires to remain on a good understanding with Germany, for the sake of the latter nation's technical and financial services, but it is of opinion that Germany's best policy is to accelerate the building of her Fleet as much as possible, so that she may be prepared when the moment of danger arrives.

There would appear to be some method in this madness, but the method is more contemptible than if the thing were merely gratuitous. It may be the cowardly policy for which China has so often been condemned, that of allaying personal tremours by endeavouring to set all potential enemies by the ears. A local San Franciscan recently remarked that he would like to see Germany and Japan fight an exhausting fight, and then to see America lick both. This Neronian ruthlessness was, we fear, a result of newspaper nurture; and it cannot be overlooked that it is a growth bound to bear fruit, at polling booths and elsewhere. It will be a sad thing if some historian of the future has to write that the Press, which so largely helped to give man liberty, finally converted him into a bloodthirsty coward, who would neither learn to shoot nor cease to shout; who bellowed for causeless wars, and sent his undergrown and underpaid striplings to take part in them. Yet there are signs that some such verdict may one day have to be recorded.

ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, April 3rd.)

It is very difficult for civilians to grasp the full significance of Mr. HALDANE'S scheme of army reform, but we may take it that the mildness of criticism and general approval it has met indicate that the Secretary of State for War has hit upon a compromise that is practical and practicable. The patriotic co-operation of the British public is, however, indispensable to its complete success. The new scheme admits of expansion, a desideratum specified by the Elgin Commission on the South African War, and this expansion must come from auxiliary forces. The experts, disagreeing as usual, yet seem all to have thought hitherto that the correct principle of organisation of British land forces lies in three lines, the Regulars for frontier work, the Militia to supplement, relieve, and fill up gaps therein, and the Volunteers to do anything their title implies—that is, home defence primarily, but in addition any other work they care to volunteer to do. Mr. HALDANE'S idea is that this well-worn ideal is impracticable, and his scheme is for two lines only, the first the Regulars plus an irregular reserve; the second line he calls "Territorial Forces," embracing the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers. Writing from a not too clear recollection, we think he has perhaps drawn a hint from one of Kipling's parables, for he proposes that the raising and administration of his second line should be, within certain limits, entrusted to "County Associations," having at their head the Lord Lieutenant, and for members the Deputy Lieutenants, local officers (to the extent of "at least one half"), and certain other persons appointed *ex-officio*. The result is that neither will the Militia itself be absorbed by the Volunteers, nor the Volunteers, by the Militia; but that an entirely new, or more accurately a reconstituted, National Militia will in the course of time absorb both. The cadres of the existing Militia, together with those of the Volunteers, will pass to the new territorial forces, in which the men now belonging to both will be invited to enlist;

but 'toll,' so to speak, will, it is hoped, be taken of the Militia to form the nucleus of the new supplementary reserves for the regulars, which, although trained upon an auxiliary basis, will in point of fact become part and parcel of the regulars." By Section 33 of the proposed "Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill of 1907," non-regular reservists will be liable (if they have consented thereto) to be called up for service without reference to a "Proclamation" or communication to Parliament, whenever warlike operations are in preparation or in progress, provided that their services are required outside the United Kingdom. This provision of power to his Majesty to call up the reserves, quietly without Proclamation, in preparation for hostilities that appear to be imminent, is obviously a great advantage. Another good feature is the provision of competent officers and N.C.O.'s for the second line, with a strong reserve of subalterns for the first, by the offer of better financial inducements. Provided that the Volunteer forces are not thinned by fear of the possibility of the King's proclamation, Mr. HALDANE'S scheme seems to offer a standing army such as the European conscription system gives, with no such gap between Regulars and Auxiliaries as exists at present, and though the latter will be numerically 50,000 less, they will be greatly strengthened in effectiveness, with better training and longer service.

A DISSERTATION.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

We have received, and returned, an essay submitted for publication in this journal. The writer, with that sublime effrontery for which the hack almost envies the amateur, simply entitled his literary effort "Life." The essay itself has no concern in these comments; it dwindles to overwhelming unimportance beside its modest heading. It is a good heading, as a famous American journal of humour has no doubt realized; but it was misapplied. It fits more things than dilettant scribbblings. It might, for example, have replaced the word "telegrams" in yesterday's shipping extra, for if the collated messages from the outside world, referring to the governorship of Jamaica, an official's promotion, the murder of a merchant prince and the sentimentalistic reprieve of the murderer, the gaddings of presidents and princes, the grounding of a steamer and the impeding of canal traffic, the national revenue, professional billiard players' performances, a single death in Society and wholesale battle, arson, and rapine in Roumania—if all these things together do not vividly suggest such a caption, no inept hash of transcendentalism can deserve it. In Hongkong and elsewhere in the Far East some of us appear to cherish a vague impression that we "see life" more than does the average stay-at-home person. In one sense, this is beyond doubt correct, the average person anywhere is too busy earning a living to sense life objectively. The term "life" is a wide one, however, and it is possible that we colonials are not greatly favoured over homedwellers, if we take the trouble to examine essentials. Kipling during a short stay in Hongkong took opportunities to describe "life" as the term is specialised by certain foolish, chit-singing young animals full of poor liquor, and he spoiled a highly effective bit of first-class literary realism by a tag of second-rate moralising thrown in, possibly, as a sop to those relations of Mrs. GRUNDY who dearly like to steal peeps at sinners sometimes, if only

to denounce sin more authoritatively. But such specific applications of the caption are less correct than would be the connection of the word with any one of REUTER'S heterogeneous daily epitomes. A phrase much in vogue lately shows that in the whirl of civilization there are revolting spirits given to thinking about "life"—at least there be some who have obviously reached the stage of deciding that it needs simplifying. Sometimes we have reflected that "the Simple Life" must be much older than the cant phrase in which the conception has been crystallised; that perhaps the bygone travellers who founded Hongkong and other similar places were actuated somewhat by a desire to escape the trammels and complexities of that civilization which we are so keen to force upon peoples actually and unconsciously living "the Simple Life." If it be so, and we have heard the casual complaints of later wanderers, who in coming to these far outposts of Empire confess to have dreamed of sartorial freedom in pyjamas and sandals, as well as other wild imaginings, then we may go on to fancy how some of them would fold up tent and steal away, to places where Kipling's hackneyed and misleading jingle juxtaposing drink and the Decalogue would be more applicable. For truth to tell, Mrs. GRUNDY is a far more pushing, enterprising, and persistent missionary than any of the hired servants of the churches. AUTOLYCUS has no business in Hongkong, Shanghai, or Yokohama. That figurative lady Mrs. Grundy—not fictitious, for she is really as evident and powerful as the Chinese Empress-Dowager—has "jumped the claims" of the refugees from civilization, and has hung up a silk hat and a straight-fronted corset as a sign of possession. A protest made by His Excellency the Governor some little time ago against the prevalence of plaster over honest brick in local architecture might have served as a text for a sermon on the subject, "Stuccoville" might be its name, Respectability its creed, and Mrs. G. its tutelary goddess. It has its advantages. We would not hanker after nor recommend such places as BRET HARTE has pictured for us. They must be more comfortable to read about than to live in. It is just as well to have a few restrictions, and we fancy there are more than the Ten that Kipling has declared are overlooked. Mrs. GRUNDY could never be satisfied with so few as ten. There are as many of her "don'ts" and "mustn'ts" in Hongkong as in London, yet most residents contrive to exist very comfortably. Then why, it will now be enquired, all these divagations? If they had a reasonable purpose, we would be glad to declare it, but earnest mental searching fails to discover even a shadow of it. Like TOMMY, we expect they "grewed", out of a contemplation of a small word neatly written at the top of a rejected contribution. That essayist (he will forgive these references, we know) did not do ill in writing what and as he did. The only mistake he made was in calling it "Life." Therein, for those who do not do all their reading on the run, there appears to be a faint suggestion of the point and purpose we have formally denied. *Nobis non licet esse tam diutius, qui Muses colimus severiores*; but it is a poor-spirited horse that never shines sometimes.

It is reported that H. E. Yang Shih-hsiang, Governor of Shantung, has given permission to a German syndicate to construct a railway between the district city of Yihshien and a town on the Tienchuang river. A German engineer, it is further stated, has already started to survey the proposed route.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on April 2nd at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brown (Registrar General), Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley (Captain-Superintendent of Police), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

RE SPECIAL CASES UNDER SECTION 175.

Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. H. Humphreys and Dr. F. Clark, the committee appointed to consider the question of "special cases" for exemption or modification under section 175 of Ordinance 1 of 1903, reported as follows:—We have discussed the matter referred to us, and have come to the conclusion that the conditions of properties are so varied that no useful rules can be laid down as to which should be treated as special cases under section 175 of Ordinance 1 of 1903. We consider that the only safe course is to obtain a report on each case from the Medical Officer of Health, which would be submitted to the Board in the usual manner. In cases, however, where the Medical Officer of Health reports that total exemption might, in his opinion, be granted, if power to grant such total exemption existed, we recommend that no steps be taken towards enforcing the provisions of section 175 until the Government have decided what action is to be taken on the report of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance Commission, which has now been submitted.

The PRESIDENT moved, and Mr. HOOPER seconded the motion adopting the report. Carried.

"AN ABSURD RECOMMENDATION."

Further correspondence was laid before members relative to a modification of the requirements of Section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance in respect of Nos. 351 and 353 Queen's Road West.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minuted some time ago regarding these houses:—The small back yard required by section 175 is intended for the deposit of household refuse pending its daily removal. I do not see any more reason for granting exemption in the case of the corner house No. 353, than for any of the other corner houses which have been refused exemption by the Board. In the case of No. 351 I see no reason at all for granting exemption. It is not a corner house.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I am no longer the owner of these houses. How absurd is the recommendation to erect a platform for the temporary deposit of house refuse? It will be a fine sight to see every Chinese house with a platform sticking out on upper floors full of house refuse. The corner house is well lit, and so is the next house which has big skylights and wide windows at the back. These houses should be totally exempted, being perfectly sanitary and having a private lane in the rear, which is counted as open space.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Take no action in case of corner house, as the back-yard belongs to the ground floor occupants only. It was never meant to be used for the deposit of refuse from the other floors; and this section does not sanction our requiring the owner to provide spaces open to the air for the deposit of refuse from top floors.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—What is done with regard to house refuse from rooms on upper floors in a building of that sort?

The PRESIDENT—I suppose it is all taken down to the yard basement.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—It is generally put in the gutter at the front door after nine o'clock at night.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—As far as I know the rubbish is kept on the floor until night time and then dumped into the street.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—That is a system?

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—Yes.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—If there is a back yard, stuff is thrown into it from the upper floors.

Mr. HOOPER—This place seems to me to be analogous to a building say, like Alexandra Buildings. Supposing a tenant on the top floor there has no back yard, all he has got to do

with his refuse is put it in a bucket in the kitchen until night, when it is put out for the scavengers to collect it. In this case it seems to me that we cannot do anything if the man has a proper bucket in his kitchen and deposits the refuse at night.

The PRESIDENT—Dr. Clark reports that the corner house is already well lit, so I don't think any action need be taken with reference to it. It is not clear whether this lane is a private one or owned by the owner of the house.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—It is not owned by the owner. The scheme on which my recommendation is based the Board approved while I was away. In this case a modification, but not total exemption, ought to be granted.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—In that case don't you think it would be advisable for the owner to widen the windows at the rear?

Mr. HOOPER—As there is no immediate hurry for enforcing them, I should like to see these applications stand over for six months.

The PRESIDENT—They cannot stand over indefinitely. A good many of the houses we are considering to-day belong to the Humphreys Estate Co.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The proposal indicated on the plan seems a suitable and reasonable one, and I move that the modifications for a back yard be granted subject to the house being altered in accordance with the arrangement shown on the plan; also that the corner house may be allowed to remain as it is.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Supposing the owner wishes to make other arrangements, you cannot compel him to adopt this plan.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It is quite open for the owner to make any proposal he or she wishes.

The PRESIDENT seconded the motion.

Mr. HOOPER moved an amendment that the application be allowed to stand over for six months.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN seconded.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost, and before the motion was put Mr. HOOPER asked that the applications should be divided.

The VICE-PRESIDENT then moved that the Governor-in-Council be recommended to exempt house No. 353 from providing a back yard, and that in connection with house No. 351 the modification applied for under section 175 be granted. These motions were carried.

RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION.

Further correspondence was submitted relative to a modification of the requirement of section 175 in respect of Nos. 112 Wing Lok Street and 30 Des Vaux Road Central.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think, considering the fact that this is principally used as an eating house, there ought to be some place to put refuse, and move that the application be refused.

Mr. HOOPER—Would you go so far as to say that if it ceased to be an eating house to-morrow you would require the same?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—That is what is influencing me in the present case. If it was occupied as a domestic building we would be almost obliged to follow other rules laid down.

Mr. HOOPER—You are structurally altering the place now, and if it ceased to be an eating house it would have to be re-erected, which is rather a hardship on the owner who gets no compensation.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—That is quite conceivable. The occupation now carried on renders the premises insanitary, whereas if the building was used as a private house such would not be the case. I second the Vice-President's motion.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I cannot support the motion as the house is adequately lighted and ventilated.

The motion on being put to the meeting was lost.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL then moved that the application be recommended to the Governor-in-Council for exemption.

Mr. HOOPER seconded and the motion was carried.

DRAINAGE BYELAWS.

Messrs. Danby, Leigh and Orange, Palmer and Turner, and Denison, Ram and Gibbs wrote to the Board calling members' attention to the fact that the Board's surveyor had quite recently taken to

demanding that when drainage plans were submitted, sections should be shown therein as required by No. 2 of the Drainage Byelaws. They pointed out that this was quite unnecessary in nearly all cases, and only involved a lot of useless trouble so far as they were concerned, and put their clients to extra expense. When the byelaws originally came into force the uselessness of supplying sections was pointed out, and up to date the formality had been waived. They concluded by asking the Board to give instructions that this course should be continued.

Mr. J. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, in reply to this letter wrote stating that if the architects would take the responsibility of their plans being correct, he did not think it absolutely necessary in all cases to require a section although it was advisable. The bye-law had for some years been waived in many cases, but he had lately written asking for these sections, because in two instances the Board's surveyor had been blamed for errors which would not have occurred had a section of the ground been given. It was to avoid a repetition of these mistakes that he had asked for sections to be given as required by Drainage Byelaw No. 2.

Mr. HOOPER minuted: No hard and fast rule should be laid down. There may be some cases where a section is necessary, but where a straight drain is shown between two points and the fall can be accurately described by writing it on the plans, no section should be required.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I agree with Mr. HOOPER.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I he formality should be waived as requested.

The PRESIDENT—I think this matter should be left at the discretion of the Surveyor.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't agree to that and hope to get the support of the Director of Public Works. To call upon an owner to provide a plan and incur unnecessary expense when the form of drain could be accurately described, is not right. In some cases such request may be a whim. If it was the Director of Public Works or a qualified engineer who had this power I should raise no objection, but I am not prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Sanitary Surveyor.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—According to the strict interpretation of the Ordinance sections ought to accompany plans, but it has been the practice hitherto to dispense with sections, and only in exceptional instances were they required to be provided.

The PRESIDENT—The architects might be informed that it is not necessary to provide sections in every case.

Mr. HOOPER—I agree to that if it is distinctly understood that they can appeal to the Board when called upon to supply them.

Members agreed.

SOMETHING SERIOUS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to a Gough Street latrine.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT stated that in this case a charge had been brought against Sanitary Department officials, and also against an interpreter at the Magistracy. This was not the first affair of the kind brought to the notice of members of the Board. He thought they should send it to the Government and ask them to investigate it. It was merely repetition of a similar case before the Commission.

The PRESIDENT—I should think a committee of the Board could inquire into it.

Mr. HOOPER—This is a direct charge against an interpreter at the Magistracy.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—It is too important a matter for a committee of the Board. I move that the papers be sent to the Colonial Secretary to be looked into by the Government.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded. Agreed.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended March 16th, at a death rate per 1,000 per annum, the percentage for the whole Colony is 21.6, as against 18.7 for the corresponding week of last year.

The Japan Press states that the directors and leading shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank are contemplating increasing the capital to a hundred million yen. It is proposed to add seventy-five million yen to the present capital.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, April 2nd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION
BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE: AND OTHERS.

Lau Fat v. Tsoi Ching, was an action brought by the plaintiff for the dissolution of his partnership with the defendant.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Harding for the defendant.

Mr. Harding pointed out that though he did not oppose the dissolution, the question was one of costs. The capital—\$200 each—was paid in for a partnership at will, and any partner could retire when he chose. He was not in a position to deliver up an account of the firm's business as Mr. d'Almada's client had possession of three of the books—two cash books and one sales book—without which it was impossible to make up an account.

His Lordship—Perhaps he will produce them?

Mr. d'Almada—We have only one.

Mr. Harding—I understand there are three. My client made a complaint to the police respecting their removal from the firm's place of business.

His Lordship—You had better take the usual order, costs reserved, with liberty. All books to be brought to the Court shroff.

In another action Tsoi Ting On Tung sued Lau Fat for \$62.40, money lent on a promissory note.

Mr. Harding represented the plaintiff and Mr. d'Almada the defendant.

Mr. d'Almada—My defence is that the money was paid to the partnership.

His Lordship—The case had better stand over as the shroff will either include or exclude this amount. Then you (Mr. Harding) can take action if necessary. It is adjourned sine die.

Yet another case concerning the same partners was called on. This time the Shin Lung firm sued the Hung Sang firm for \$4'6'89.

Mr. Harding appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. d'Almada for Lau Fat, one of the partners.

Mr. d'Almada asked for an adjournment as the claim concerned the partnership now being dissolved.

Mr. Harding said the claim was one for goods sold and delivered. Any dispute between the partners did not concern his clients.

Mr. d'Almada—Until the accounts are gone into we do not know whether we owe the money.

Mr. Harding—I'll prove that.

Mr. d'Almada—I would ask for a stay of execution.

His Lordship—I shall certainly stay execution; I do not see what is the use of going on.

Mr. Harding—My client has nothing to do with disputes between the partners.

Mr. d'Almada—The plaintiffs are acting in collusion with Tsoi Ching, who Mr. Harding appeared for in the last case.

His Lordship—Do you sue your own client?

Mr. Harding—I sue both partners on behalf of the Shin Lung.

His Lordship—This case will have to be adjourned.

Mr. Harding—Will your Lordship give me judgment and stay execution?

His Lordship—No, you would not take it when it was offered.

Mr. Harding—Will our Lordship refer to the particulars filed—details of the goods.

His Lordship—No, adjourned sine die.

Wednesday, April 3rd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

HO YEE V IP CHUK PO.

This was an action brought by plaintiff to recover \$300, money lent to defendant. Mr. R. Harding appeared for the former and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the latter. Mr. Harding explained that on 16th December last defendant asked plaintiff whether she had any money to lend as he had a friend who wished to borrow a sum of money. She consented. Defendant stated

that his friend wanted \$450, but defendant had not enough, only \$150, and asked her to lend him the \$300. She did so, and obtained the receipt. Now defendant disputed having received the money from plaintiff to lend to Cheun Luk Yu.

Evidence was given at length. Plaintiff stated that she received the money from her father, having inherited \$1000 on which she had lived for three years and still had the \$300 left to lend to defendant.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, 4th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

The trial of the issue of partnership in the case of Fung Kat San *alias* Fung Sam Ting, and the Kung Yek Cheong firm, was brought before the Court.

Mr. Daniel, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro represented the defendant.

Mr. Daniel said that this was a further step in the action in which judgment had been given some time ago against the firm for the sum of \$300, and the case now was for a trial of the issue as to whether Fung Kat San, *alias* Fung Sam Ting, was a partner in the firm of Kwong Yek Cheong.

Mr. d'Almada e Castro said he would show that Fung Sam Ting was not Fung Kat San.

After hearing evidence, his Honour decided that plaintiff had not made out his case. It was clear that Fung Sam Ting was not a partner. The case was dismissed with costs against the plaintiff.

ROBERT MORRISON MEMORIAL.

MEETING AT CANTON.

It is hoped that the Hongkong community will take up the matter of the Robert Morrison Memorial and make contributions to the fund. Sir Robert Hart points out the fact that one of Robert Morrison's sons was connected with the Superintendentcy of Trade in Hongkong, and Sir Robert Hart served under him in Hongkong in 1854. Unquestionably the work of Morrison pre-eminently, and other men like him, led to the opening up of China and to the formation of such colonies as Hongkong. On Thursday, March 28th, an interesting meeting was held in the Shameen Club Theatre, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, Mr. R. W. Mansfield presided. On the platform, besides the speakers, were the Japanese and French Consuls.

Mr. MANSFIELD introduced the speakers with these fitting words:—The object of our meeting this evening is to place before you present a brief sketch of the great and beneficent work of the pioneer missionary, Dr. Robert Morrison, who, early in the last century, produced the first comprehensive Dictionary of the Chinese Language, which for many decades was the standard work of its kind. The late Professor Julien, of Paris, one of the greatest sinologists who ever lived, spoke of Morrison's Dictionary as "without dispute the best Chinese Dictionary composed in a European language." Speaking from the student's point of view alone, therefore, the work of Dr. Morrison, whose centenary it is proposed to celebrate by the erection of a memorial, has earned a place in the world's history. His work in the great cause of Christianity I must leave to the reverend gentlemen who are to address you this evening. I will therefore detain you no longer, but ask the Venerable Archdeacon Banister to give us his address on "The First Protestant Missionary in China."

The Venerable Archdeacon BANISTER dwelt especially upon how Morrison got to Canton and the work that he did. It was pointed out that he laid the foundation for all subsequent missionary work, medical, educational and direct religious work. Morrison during his brief stay in the United States of America did much to arouse the interest of Americans on behalf of

the Chinese, and it is due partly to Morrison's zeal and wisdom that we now find a chain of American educational institutions, beginning at Canton and continuing on up to Tientsin, and others established at the riverine ports.

The Rev. T. W. PEARCE spoke on the subject: "Foreigners in Canton a Century ago. The Place of Robert Morrison in the Commercial Community of his Day." He said in part:—My point of approach is the personal, the friendly, the neighbourly. As a younger man in China during the years 1879-1891 I was a member of this Shameen community; this island was my home then, as it is yours to-day. Shameen was then but half built over; a supplementary settlement on the opposite side of the river was not within the contemplation of the most sanguine; the extension of commercial, industrial and missionary activity on the land adjoining the "Macao Reach" on either side was not thought of; people had not begun even to talk of a railway to Fatsan as within the sphere of the practicable; there was little if any steam navigation for passenger boats on the inland waterways of the province; nor was the light of those other days of the kind that to-night illumines this theatre. Times are changed, and the resident of former times who is now the occasional visitor to this provincial city is in the best position to gauge and measure the extent of advance. All this progress is legitimate and proper development under conditions favourable to commerce. If such contrasts appear signal and striking, how much more the contrast suggested by a realisation from the vantage ground of to-day of the Canton of a hundred years ago with its Western community on the banks of the Pearl River. To enter by sympathy and imagination into the every-day life of this, the earliest Western community in China, is the first step to understanding the relation of the present to the past, and the greatness of our obligation to the men who preceded us and who were engaged in the commercial and missionary endeavours of the olden time. The trading community of that day was confined in a space between what are now the Steamboat Company's wharves and the missionary hospital at Kuk Fau. It was restricted as to number, likewise in the avocations permitted to be carried on by its numbers and the times and seasons when these might be carried on, the domestic or household arrangement in respect to the number of servants that might be employed were also subject to interference by the local officials who jealously watched the goings out and comings in of the foreigners that had come to trade with China. Into this community there came in 1807 the first Protestant Missionary. At the outset there was no use for him and he lived a secluded life concealing his movements from the prying eyes of the Chinese in daily fear that he might not be permitted to stay in Canton and there carry out the task assigned him of learning the language, translating the Scriptures, and compiling a dictionary. He had also in view far-sighted and comprehensive plans for the highest good of China through literature, education and philanthropy that was inspired by Christianity. By Chinese scholarship he won his way to a position of great influence in that mercantile community, and by Chinese scholarship he kept it during the twenty-seven years of his life in China. The great schemes, educational, philanthropic, literary and religious, were all either accomplished or on the way to accomplishment before his death in 1834. Shortly after these events the community that had not welcomed Morrison in China met to consider a Morrison Memorial, precisely as the community has met to-night. We may be well assured, though the record does not tell us so, that well nigh all the members of that early community sought to join in the first memorial. The Morrison Education Society was then formed which for upwards of twenty years supported schools in Macao, in Malacca and Singapore and in Hongkong. That Society had its principal building on what is now known as Morrison Hill, Hongkong, and when the Society ceased to exist there was founded the Morrison Scholarship in Queen's College, and the Morrison Library passed into the possession of the City Hall Authorities for the use of the public

in the Colony. If it be inquired why Morrison's work as a lexicographer, grammarian and translator was so generously supported by the East India Company, who paid £12,000 for printing his dictionary alone, or why his philanthropic and educational plans were so warmly taken up, the answer lies in the circumstance that the aim of all his work was to bring China and the West into closer relations for the good of both. This was only possible on the basis of mutual good understanding and mutual good will. All Morrison's endeavour sought the end and it largely succeeded. He did more than any foreigner of his time to enlighten the Chinese mind and he had part also in those movements which after his death led to the break-up in Canton, the founding of the colony of Hongkong, the opening of coast ports, the extension of Western commerce and the many chances of the new time that makes alike for disintegration and for reconstruction. This is our debt to Morrison, and the meeting to-night is an appeal for due acknowledgement and for discharge of a portion of that debt in the form of a Robert Morrison Memorial Building which while linking the past with the present shall carry forward into the future the benefits received from the self-denying labours of Morrison, the pioneer missionary a century ago.

Rev. JOHN LAKE who returned last week from a trip around the world in the interest of the Memorial, spoke on the subject: "Some World-wide Features of the Memorial." He said, in part: During the past three or four months I have had the pleasure, as the Morrison Memorial Committee's representative, of standing before audiences in the home lands and of seeing thousands of men and women evince the deepest interest in the life and work of Robert Morrison. In the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and other countries all around the world, Morrison's name has been an "open sesame" to hearts and homes and platforms and pulpits, and through the press and in churches, ministers' meetings, theological seminaries, universities, missionary meetings and Y.M.C.A. conventions, I have had the joy of bearing my little testimony to the results of his foundation work in China and of seeing a quick and hearty response everywhere. After an interview with President Roosevelt at the White House, I received the following letter from him—

"January 16, 1907.

"Permit me to express my hearty sympathy with the purpose to erect a building at Canton to the memory of Robert Morrison, who came as a missionary to Canton just one hundred years ago. It is a touching fact which you tell me that fifteen hundred Chinese, including converts and adherents from all the native congregations in and near Canton and the Chinese preachers and teachers from all the missions, should have been planning for the erection of such a building. I hope our own people out of their abundance will contribute for the same purpose. Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Hurrying to London, I had the pleasure of presenting the matter before leaders of several great religious movements, and of seeing the Rt. Hon. Lord Kinnaid, who, with Messrs. Barclay and Company, Bankers, will receive the contributions in Great Britain. In Berlin, Count A. Bernsdorff cheerfully consented to act as Treasurer for Germany. These names to the appeal are a certain guarantee of its kindly reception everywhere. In Rome, an aged missionary, the first person on whom I called, made a contribution to the work, of his own accord, and expressed his deepest interest in the matter. In Ceylon, the National Secretary said that in Colombo and elsewhere Morrison Memorial Day would be observed, and young men but recently converted to Christianity would be given an opportunity to have a part in the erection of this Memorial building. Even on ship board, from ocean to ocean, the matter was heartily received. I spoke on the subject to a little company of Christian people as we were sailing through the Red Sea with Mount Horeb visible in the distance, and before the voyage was over, one of those present slipped a £50 cheque in my

hand with which I gladdened the heart of the Committee.

Rev. A. A. FULTON, D.D., made a brief statement as to the form of the proposed memorial. It is to be an up-to-date Young Men's Christian Association Building for the use of Chinese. The total cost will be about \$200,000. The building is to contain a large assembly hall, to seat at least 3,000, with a museum, library, thoroughly equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, besides the various other departments usually connected with Y. M. C. A. Buildings. It is to be erected on the new bund near the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital, and when completed will be the best specimen of western architecture and best concrete representation of Western civilization in the city. Every foreigner in Canton, in fact every foreigner in China, is requested to make a contribution to the Memorial.

Mr. MANSFIELD concluded the meeting by proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers for their informing and interesting addresses.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1906.

In his report of the year's work at the Shipping Office, as published in the *Gazette*, the Harbour Master says:—The total tonnage entering and clearing at Ports of the Colony during the year 1906 amounted to 32,747,268 tons, being a decrease, compared with 1905, of 1,437,823 tons; but in combining ocean and steam-river trade, a tonnage amounting to 19,793,38 is shown, an increase of 86,656 tons over 1905 and the highest yet recorded. In putting aside river trade, a substantial increase in ocean trade appears, amounting to 789,857 tons. There were 214,556 arrivals of 16,394,508 tons, and 215,170 departures of 16,352,760 tons. Of British ocean-going vessels 3,595,879 tons entered and 3,593,542 tons cleared. Of Foreign ocean-going vessels, 3,65,449 tons entered, and 3,528,046 tons cleared. Of British river steamers 2,424,961 tons entered, and 2,417,540 tons cleared. Of Foreign river steamers, 334,831 tons entered, and 333,786 tons cleared. Of steamships under 60 tons trading to ports outside the waters of the Colony 20,141 tons entered, and 20,141 tons cleared. These figures do not include private steam launches. Of junks in Foreign trade 1,307,972 tons entered, and 1,311,439 tons cleared. Of steamships under 60 tons plying within the waters of the Colony 4,125,68 tons entered, and 4,125,768 tons cleared. These figures are incomplete, as the "Star" Ferry Company's craft are not included, the Company stating that no record is kept of the number of trips made, or passengers carried, by their vessels.

Of junks in local trade 1,019,507 tons entered, and 1,023,143 tons cleared. Thus British ocean-going vessels represented 21.9; Foreign ocean-going vessels 21.6; British river steamers 14.7; Foreign river steamers 2.3; steamships under 60 tons, Foreign trade, 0.1; junks in foreign trade 8.0; steamships under 60 tons, local trade, 25.2; and junks in local trade 6.2 per cent. 7,772 steamers, 14 sailing vessels, and 439 steamships, under 60 tons in foreign trade, entered during the year, giving a daily average entry of 2.5 as compared with 24.81 in 1905. If the figures for foreign trade junks are added, the daily average would be 61.4, as against 70.5 in 1905. Taking a comparison of the years 1905 and 1906, ocean vessels under the British flag show a decrease of 298 ships of 481,453 tons. This decrease is mainly due to vessels under the Japanese flag returning to their various routes at the conclusion of the late war, thereby supplanting several British vessels which had been chartered in their stead, and partly to the disappearance of tramp steamers which carried stores for the opposing fleets; and eliminating the 893,890 tons ascribed in last year's return as an abnormal increase, practically due to the state of war existing, a legitimate increase to the British Flag is shown, amounting to 411,037 tons. In British River steamers there is a decrease of 1,024 ships of 711,521 tons shown, which is due to the serious disasters that befell these steamers during the typhoon on the memorable 18th of September, and to the gutting by fire of the *Hankow* in the following

month. During the necessary repairs of the crippled vessels, coasting steamers of small size were utilised in some instances by the different companies. For foreign ocean vessels an increase of 442 ships of 1,272,710 tons is shown, which is almost wholly due to the Japanese vessels taking up their respective routes in place of the British vessels temporarily chartered, amounting to 594 ships of 1,275,640 tons in 1906, against 58 ships of 69,146 tons in 1905, an increase of 536 ships 1,206,494 tons. Additionally, Korean steamers for the first time since 1901 entered the Port, and assisted in the increase by 31 ships of 61,596 tons. Vessels under Norwegian flag show a decrease of 135 ships of 186,093 tons. For foreign river steamers an increase of 96 ships representing 8,320 tons is shown and can be ascribed to more trips being made by vessels under the French and Portuguese flags supplemented by vessels under the German and Japanese flags which did not compete in this trade before. The other increases and decreases are of small importance, excepting junk and steam-launch trade within and outside the waters of the Colony. These vessels in many cases suffered disastrously in the typhoon already mentioned, and can be applied to the abnormal decrease shown, assisted by a gradual falling off in Junk Trade throughout the year.

The actual number of ships of European construction (exclusive of river steamers and steam-launches) entering during the year was 870, being 417 British and 453 Foreign. These 870 ships entered 4,012 times and gave a total tonnage of 7,151,328 tons. Thus, compared with 1905, 19 less ships entered 86 more times, and gave an aggregate tonnage increased by 404,728 tons.

The 417 British vessels carried 3,604 British officers and 31 foreign officers as follows:—British, 3,644; Danish, 2; Dutch, 2; Norwegian, 2; and United States, 25. Thus, the proportion of foreign officers serving in British Vessels was 0.85 per cent, comprising four nationalities. A decrease of 0.04 per cent, with a decrease in number of officers and ships. The 453 foreign vessels carried 3,377 of whom 170 were British officers, thus 5.93 per cent of the officers serving in foreign vessels were of British Nationality. The 417 British vessels carried, as crews, 3,694 British, 1,837 other Europeans, and 109,032 Asiatics; while the 453 foreign vessels carried 1,594 British 37,166 other Europeans, and 97,018 Asiatics.

Only an approximation of detailed cargo, measurement, weight, &c. is given, in many cases, enumerated cargo, which should be so shown is reported as general except sugar and opium, these being manifested at this Office can be taken as reliable. Under Imports there appears an increase of 159,426 tons, or 4.1 per cent principally due to sugar, general, rice and flour, respectively. In sugar 170,391 tons or 54.6 per cent is shown. In rice, 58,198 tons or 10.3 per cent, is recorded. This increase would have been considerably enhanced were it not for the scarcity of cargo boats, following the typhoon in September, many of the vessels departed with full cargoes as transit, which otherwise would have been reported as Imports. In flour, 25,127 tons, which points somewhat to a cessation of the boycott of this commodity from the United States, although some small shipments have been reported from Australia at the early part of the year. Among the decreases, coal is prominent, amounting to 112,621 tons which may be explained to some extent in the same manner as reported in 1905, a cessation of maritime warfare and an overstocked market. Case oil follows with a further falling off of 45,569 tons; this reduction may be ascribed to the large stock accumulated in the Colony on account of the boycott and to shipments that passed through the harbour as transit for other ports, which hitherto, in some instances, were landed and reshipped at this Port. A decrease is reported of 537,038 tons in transit cargo, which may be explained by the falling off of transport service at the conclusion of the late war and to a reported general slackness of trade existing for some time past. The report also shows a decrease of 232,884 tons in export cargo. The total reported Import trade of the Port for 1906 amounted to 21,403 vessels of 11,249,233 tons carrying 7,372,075

tons of cargo of which 4,493,715 tons were discharged at Hongkong. Similarly, the export trade of the Port was represented by 22,142 vessels of 11,213,844 tons of cargo and shipping and 690,669 tons of bunker coal. During the year 1906 15,519 vessels of European construction of 19,793,354 tons (net register) reported having carried 9,759,648 tons of cargo. The total number of tons carried was therefore 49.31 per cent of the total net register tonnage, or 64.40 per cent exclusive of river steamers. In the river trade the imports for the year totalled 284,890 tons, the exports 223,070 tons while the number of passengers carried was 2,561,972. The passenger and emigrant returns show that 33,420 persons arrived at or departed from the Colony in British vessels, while the number travelling by foreign vessels was 216,444.

The total Revenue collected by the Harbour Department during the year was \$274,008.78 as against \$302,787.76 (including \$2,220 collected under the Sugar Convention Ordinance) collected in the previous year, showing a decrease of \$28,778.98. For purposes of comparison, the amount of decrease, \$28,778.98, may properly be reduced by \$12,219.58, being amount of storage fees paid in November 1905 by owners of war materials, which had been seized and ultimately restored by this Government, an item of revenue not to be expected again, leaving a net decrease of \$16,559.40 to be accounted for. The principal falling off in revenue comes under the heading: Junk Fees, \$1,457; engagement and discharge of seaman, \$1,528; storage of gunpowder, yet another sum of \$4,769; Sunday cargo-working permits, \$12,007; and survey of steamships, \$3,815. The principal increases are under light dues, \$3,488; fishing stake and net licences, \$1,115 and medical examination of emigrants, \$3,582.

In the 31st December, there were 291 steam-launches employed in the Harbour, of these, 138 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, &c., 138 were privately owned, 15 were the property of the Government and 5 belonged to the Imperial Government in charge of Military Authorities. Thirteen master's certificates were suspended and 334 engagements and 164 discharges of masters and engineers were made from 1st January to 31st December. Twelve steam-launches were permitted to carry arms, &c. for their protection against pirates, of these 11 were previously permitted and one during this year. 76,725 emigrants left Hongkong for various places during the year, of these, 63,830 were carried by British ships and 12,895 by Foreign ships; 134,912 were reported as having been brought to Hongkong from places to which they have emigrated, and of these, 105,750 were brought in British ships and 25,586 by Foreign ships. During the year, 399 permits were issued, under the provisions of the Ordinance. Of these, 126 were not availed of owing to its being found unnecessary for the ship to work cargo on Sunday and the fee paid for the permit was refunded in each case. The months of September and October accounted for \$2,427.50 of the decrease; in the former month after the typhoon of the 18th September, vessels were allowed to work cargo on Sundays without paying fees and in the latter month only one-tenth of the prescribed fees were charged on permits, the remainder of the decrease being shown by the other months of the year.

The station at the Island of Cheung Chau was opened in September, the one at Tai O in the Island of Lantau, in October of 1899, that at Tai Po in Mirs Bay, on board the Police steam-launch, in January 1900 that in Deep Bay on board the Police steam-launch, in November 1901, that at Sai Kung in April 1902, and that at Long Ket, on board the Police steam-launch, in April 1905. The revenue collected by this Department from the New Territories during 1905, was \$18,914.25 or \$780.55 more than in 1905.

During the year under review, some important changes have taken place, notably:—the vacating of the old Harbour Office for the present commodious new building, which has alleviated matters considerably for the better working of the Department. The telegraph service from the outlying lighthouses, viz.: Gap Rock, Waglan and Green Island, has been installed and worked from this building. Additionally,

shipping firms have been apprised of their vessels inward which hitherto was done by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.'s office. The deplorable loss of life and damage done, due to the typhoon of the 18th September, will be indelibly marked in the annals of the Colony. 59 merchant vessels of European construction suffered in the waters of the Colony, 5 of 1,812 tons foundered, 22 of 21,478 tons stranded, 5 of 1,343 tons broken against sea wall, 13 of 21,430 tons badly damaged, and 14 of 25,131 tons slightly damaged. There were in addition 16 lighters of European construction sunk, and badly damaged, 24 launches sunk, 30 damaged and approximately 1,796 native craft sunk and in the majority of cases totally lost. It can be safely said that all craft suffered in the harbour, more or less damaged during the blow. The loss of life, I regret to say, must have been excessively high, amounting to approximately 5,000 though there are no positive records to show the actual number that perished. It behoves me to add with deep regret, the demise of a valued, courteous and upright public Officer, Captain L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Harbour Master, who fell a victim of duty through illness contracted at the time of the devastation alluded to above.

NOTORIOUS PIRATE EXECUTED.

REMARKABLE SCENES AT WUCHOW.

(Graphic Description by an Eye-Witness, specially written for the *Daily Press*.)

The notorious pirate Yuan, who has shown himself a veritable king of crime and for whose capture a reward of \$4,000 was offered, has at length been captured and executed. He was the terror of the West River. At the head of a large organisation which had spies from Canton upwards, he rarely failed to carry out any plan he had arranged. Not only was he successful in his exploits, but he was equally fortunate in evading his pursuers. Time after time, when escape seemed impossible, he gave the military and the police the slip, and renewed his depredations at some place where he was least expected. To liken him to Robin Hood or Rob Roy is perhaps too complimentary. He possessed the resource and fearlessness of these men but he had no semblance of their chivalry. Yuan was daring, but he was brutal; he was horribly savage. He has been known to murder a man for a dollar, and when the twenty students from Wuchow with their two teachers who were on their way to study in Japan fell into his hands a few weeks ago he would not spare their lives though they offered him all they possessed and he killed them all in cold blood. Women and children were ruthlessly butchered by him, and in some instances he tortured his victims before putting them to death. He plundered villages and massacred the helpless peasantry without the slightest compunction. He was absolutely merciless. Hundreds of people have been slain by him. The *Sa nam* affair is attributed to him and his latest exploit was the massacre of a village not far from Wuchow.

Though not a man of great physique, he was nevertheless fairly well set up and with a decided presence. And his genius, though misdirected, must be admitted. Originality distinguished most of his schemes which required more than ordinary daring. On a recent occasion he got his emissaries on board a certain vessel by having them all dressed as women. What most marks his personality is the fact that Yuan was a member of a distinguished family which occupies high place in the councils of the Empire. He is said to have been an officer in the Imperial troops sent to quell the Kwangsi rebellion but deserted with all his men and preyed on society. However, retribution has overtaken him at last, and singularly enough his fall was brought about by a woman. As already indicated, he spared neither sex nor age, and among his victims were his wife and her relatives. He stole women and when he tired of them he either sold them or killed them. His last feminine companion was a girl whom he had

abducted from her home. She it was who betrayed him into the hands of the soldiers. He had gone to the village of Do Shing, a little way below Wuchow, and had taken up his residence in a certain house. His Delilah informed the occupants who he was and they decided to make him drunk. In this they succeeded and the commander of the Chinese river gunboat having been informed in the meantime he shortly arrived on the scene with his braves and took him prisoner. Yuan was brought to Wuchow on Saturday March 30th and taken before Taotai Wong. His trial was short and his fate was not long in doubt. Two days later he was decapitated.

The scenes at his execution were rather remarkable and are worthy of mention. All day the city was agog with excitement and as there was the usual uncertainty about the time fixed for the event a dense crowd waited on the Parade Ground. Shortly after three the military arrived and took up a position beneath the platform on which stood the paraphernalia appropriate to the occasion. The Taotai Wong and the Expectant Taotai came in chairs, then a band of soldiers in European uniform led by a drummer who beat a sort of dead-march, and finally, the bearers carrying the cage in which the manacled prisoner crouched. Immediately it was set on the ground an official jumped on the top of it, and hung over it like a cat ready to pounce upon a mouse. He produced two knives. Slipping the sheaths into his girdle, he proceeded to sharpen them on the bars of the cage. It made the European beholders shudder. The doomed man looked up with a sort of idle curiosity, but betrayed no visible emotion. Some ceremonial was proceeded with on the platform, such as production of the warrant and the sentence of death. The cage was opened and the prisoner was led out. His chains were taken off and he was dragged up to the platform. The significance of the little that transpired then was not quite apparent. However the opium which lay on the steps was not administered to him, as is sometimes done in such circumstances. Whether he refused it or was not offered it could not be ascertained. His hands were tied behind him and his jacket was pulled beneath his armpits, leaving the upper part of the body exposed. Then he was hurried down the steps and made to kneel. The executioner stepped forward with his two-handed sword. It flashed in the air and descended swiftly on the bare neck. A thrill of horror passed through some of the spectators. Even the callous Chinese, who were laughing and chattering throughout the proceedings, hushed for a moment. The arm that wielded the sword was not strong enough. The neck had been cut only a few inches deep, and the man had fallen forward, not quite dead, though dying. Another executioner rushed forward and pushed the first out of the way. He steadied himself on his feet and with terrible precision struck a fierce blow, and the head rolled on the ground. Bystanders were bespattered with blood, but that seemed to trouble them little. One man jumped on the quivering body, and three soldiers fired into it. Then the principal executioner, drawing a knife from his belt, plunged it into the corpse. He hacked away the flesh and cut out the heart, which he carried in his hand up to the Taotai. The head had also been placed on some sort of platter and taken to the platform where it was scrutinized by the officials. Doubtless it would be exposed later in some prominent place but what happened to the heart—whether it was offered as a sacrifice or eaten as some said,—did not transpire. But the men were not flinched with their sanguinary work. They cut up the body, opening the stomach and the legs. It all seemed horribly callous and savage. The crowd however seemed quite unmoved. They clattered and laughed, and gathered round the mangled corpse. After long stares at the gruesome sight, they still seemed loth to leave the ground but the little band of Europeans who had witnessed the spectacle hurried away somewhat upset. Perhaps they realized less than the natives the victim's great deserts. Still, no European would wish to witness such a sight a second time. It was such a palpable insult to the living, this ruthless treatment of the dead.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the office of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., on April 2nd. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson was in the chair, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. H. P. White, A. J. Raymond, F. Maitland (Consulting Committee), L. N. Leefe, (Secretary), C. H. Ross, A. Turner, W. A. Cruickshank, Ho Fook, Wong Leung-him and Captain W. E. Clarke.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the resolutions which members were asked to confirm.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, you have just heard the resolution which is to be proposed read out, but before it is put to the meeting it is perhaps advisable that I should make a few explanatory remarks having reference to that portion which deals with the appropriation of the annual profits of the Company. Hitherto the Articles of Association have provided that not more than ten per cent. of a year's profits can be put to reserve, and however inoffensive such a restriction may have been in the early stages of the Company's history, your consulting committee are unanimous in holding that it should now be altered. The results of fire insurance, as annually presented, are of a very variable character; the business is highly susceptible to the law of average and it is only by distributing losses over a long period—that is by laying aside a portion of the profits earned in good years to meet years of large losses—that the continued prosperity of a company can be looked for. It must moreover be remembered that every appropriation to reserve means an increase in the income derived from interest, and an increase in the capacity of the company to pay dividends. The alterations which we to-day seek to make in our Articles will, when passed, make it a matter of annual consideration what the dividend and appropriation to reserve shall be, and will thus place us in the position common to most companies.

Mr. TURNER proposed that the first of the two resolutions read in the notice convening the meeting be adopted.

The motion was seconded by WONG LEUNG-HIM and agreed to.

CAPTAIN CLARKE moved the adoption of the second resolution read.

Mr. HO FOOK seconded. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., was held at the office of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., on April 2nd. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland, G. C. Moxon (Consulting Committee), L. N. Leefe (Secretary), W. J. Saunders, J. Percy Smith, P. C. Fottis, Chau Sau, Wong Leung-him, Ho Fook, Fok Kam-yin and Ho U-shang.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting, and the resolutions to alter the Articles of Association.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, before the resolution which has just been read is proposed, it is necessary that I should briefly refer to the alteration in Article No. 14 which provides that the remuneration of the General Agents shall be increased to \$15,000. This Article was drawn up in the present shape in 1881, and it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon the value of the dollar now compared with what it was then. The increase in the cost of living in Hongkong has caused an increase in the cost of salaries, rent and other expenses that we have to pay, and the existing allowance of \$10,000 is no longer sufficient to meet these disbursements. It is now proposed to increase the allowance to \$15,000, for which I think there is ample justification.

Mr. MAITLAND proposed the adoption of the first of the two resolutions read.

Mr. MOXON seconded, and shareholders agreed.

Mr. SAUNDERS proposed, and Mr. HO FOOK seconded the motion for the adoption of the second resolution read in the notice convening the meeting. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LD.

A general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong High-Level Tramways Co., Ltd. was held at the office of the liquidators, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, on April 3rd. Mr. H. Humphreys presided, others present being Messrs. J. A. Tarrant, J. A. Jupp, W. A. Cruickshank, J. Orange, A. J. Raymond, D. E. Clark and J. M. Wong.

Mr. JUPP read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen—The Liquidators' report and statement of accounts have been in your hands since the 7th ultimo, so with your permission I will take them as read. The notice convening this meeting was served on you at the same time besides being advertised in the Government Gazette for one full month in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Ordinances of 1865. The figures before you give details of the working account during the period of liquidation and show how the net profit has been disposed of to a point by a first dividend in liquidation of \$20 paid on 3rd September 1906 and a final dividend in liquidation of \$11.15 now payable. The Assets and Liabilities of the Company do not appear in the Liquidators' accounts, as by virtue of the Agreement between the two Companies they are to be transferred in their entirety to the Peak Tramways Company Limited in exchange for fully paid up scrip in that Company amounting to \$250,000. The consent of the Governor-in-Council to the sale of the undertaking of the old Company to the new has been obtained and shareholders notified to send in their scrip in the old Company to be exchanged for shares in the new Company in accordance with the terms of the said agreement. I have no further remarks to make but if any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK—Might I ask when the new scrip will be issued in exchange for the old?

The CHAIRMAN—We propose to issue as soon as this meeting is over.

No further questions were asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. ORANGE seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I propose to hand over the books of the old Company to the new if shareholders have no objection. Dividend warrants are now ready and can be had on application to the Company's office. It would facilitate matters a good deal if shareholders sent in their scrip to be exchanged as soon as possible. The new company will probably be having their first annual meeting at the end of this or early next month and, of course, to get dividend warrants it will be necessary for shareholders to exchange their scrip. There will be another dividend then. That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Green Island Cement Company was held on the 3rd April at the office of the company when the resolutions passed at the previous extraordinary meeting were confirmed. Mr. R. Chewan presided and the others present were Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. T. F. Hough, R. Hancock, J. F. Wright, and J. A. Young, with Mr. Henderson secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN moved the first resolution that the capital of the Company be increased to \$4,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 new shares of \$10 each.

Mr. T. HOUGH seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the second resolution that the Articles of Association be altered by striking out the figures "\$1,500" in Clause 6 of Article XII. and by substituting therefor the figures "\$1,000" and by striking out the word "lands" in the second line of Clause 1 of Article XVI. and by inserting after the said Clause 1 new Clauses as follows:—

(1a) The Company in General Meeting may in the year 1907 pass a Resolution to the effect that it is desirable to capitalise the sum of \$900,000 being part of the undivided profits of the Company standing to the credit of the Company's Reserve Fund and accordingly that that sum be distributed as a bonus amongst the Shareholders in proportion to the shares held by them respectively, and that the General Managers be authorised to distribute among the Shareholders the 200,000 unissued Shares in like proportions.

(1b) When such Resolution has been passed the General Managers may allot and issue the 200,000 unissued Shares credited as \$4.50 paid up to the Shareholders in satisfaction of the said bonus in proportion to the shares held by them respectively, and prior to such allotment the General Managers may authorise any person on behalf of the Shareholders to enter into any agreement with the Company providing for the allotment to them of such shares credited as \$4.50 paid up and in satisfaction as aforesaid and any agreement made under such authority shall be effective.

Sir PAUL CHATER seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen.

THE CHINA LAND AND FINANCE CO., LD.

The fourth annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at Shanghai on March 27th. Mr. R. Macgregor (Chairman), said—Gentlemen—Your directors have great pleasure in submitting the annual report for the year ending February 28, 1907, for your approval. As the printed report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for several days, I will, with your permission, take the same as read. The working account for the year just ended shows a net credit balance of Tls. 46,518 30, as compared with Tls. 17,460 16 for the previous year. The Company's developed properties have all been well let, and kept in good repair. One of our estates in Yangtzepoo Road was sold last year at a profit, as were also one of the Great Western Road estates, the Gordon Road property, the Ward Road property, and a lot off Connaught Road. The buildings on the Kiang Road property have been completed, and well let to responsible firms on ten year leases. Your directors have before them a proposal involving the purchase of another central district property, and its development on the same lines as the Kiang Road property. I may say, in conclusion, that the prospects for the coming year are very good, and your directors feel confident that the next report to be placed before you will be equally as good as the one now in your hands. You will see from the accounts that Tls. 6,000 has been written off goodwill account, leaving it at Tls. 34,000. The items of profits on sales, commission, brokerage, etc. have also considerably increased, thanks to the energy of our manager, Mr. Bievelay. If you have any questions to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions, the following resolutions were put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. J. A. Wattie:—That the report and accounts, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Proposed by Mr. J. A. Wattie and seconded by Mr. E. R. Hooper:—That the appointment of Mr. King Chua-kee as a director be confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. J. A. Wattie and seconded by Mr. S. B. Neill:—That Mr. R. Macgregor be re-elected a director of the Company.

Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Chu San-ko:—That Mr. A. R. Leake be re-elected auditor for the Company for the current year.

Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. J. A. Wattie:—That the credit balance of Tls. 46,515.30 be appropriated as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent on capital	32,125.00
To place in reserve account	10,000.00
To carry forward to new account	4,390.30

The Chairman announced that dividend warrants would be posted to shareholders next morning.

Mr. E. R. Hooper proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Mr. J. A. Wattie proposed a vote of thanks to the manager, Mr. Chas. Rievely, to whose energy and business capacity, he said, the success of the Company during the past year was to a large extent due, remarking at the same time that this was the first occasion upon which a dividend of 10 per cent had been declared.

THE CENTRAL STORES, LD. SHANGHAI.

The adjourned meeting of this company took place at Shanghai on March 28th. Mr. G. I. Shekury (Chairman) said:—We meet again today to discuss the resolutions brought before you at the last extraordinary meeting, the adjournment of which we agreed to in order to allow those shareholders who were not acquainted with the Articles of this Company to have an opportunity to peruse them, although we could then have carried the resolutions by an overwhelmingly large majority of votes. I may say it is not customary with any company in submitting resolutions to its shareholders to quote the rules affecting such resolutions. It is for any shareholders who may have any objection to such resolutions, or who may wish to amend them, either to go to the office of the Company to look up the Articles of Association or else send and buy a copy. In the present transitory state of the business of the Company the directors would not recommend the issue of debentures. There is no doubt that the issue of debentures would be more advantageous from the founders' shareholders' point of view, as the Company would have to pay a guaranteed interest very much less than the cumulative one according to the Articles of Association. At the same time, I may point out the dangers which might ensue were we to issue debentures, by stating, that not very long ago, in a town not far distant from Shanghai, where a Company built up a similar undertaking to ours by having borrowed one-third of the cost in debentures, so long as the business was paying, things went satisfactorily, but when two or three lean years came along and they could hardly pay their working expenses, much less the interest on debentures, what was the result. The debenture-holders foreclosed on the property and sold it by auction at a time when business was very bad, and the property hardly realized an amount sufficient to pay the debenture-holders, and the shareholders got nothing for their trouble. That property, gentlemen, on the revival of business, is paying very handsomely to its present owners. After this statement I do not think that any of the shareholders would pledge the property of this Company at the present juncture. There is one thing more which I will point out now to those who acquired shares in the Company recently, that there is a clause—I may say a very valuable clause—in our lease, which gives to us the refusal of purchase of the land upon which the Palace Hotel is built. We cannot say when we shall be asked to exercise that clause, but it might be when least expected, and at a time perhaps when trade is bad and money hard to raise; and if you pledge your property now, it will be doubly hard to raise money then, whereas, if our property is not encumbered we could then easily, by giving a large margin, be able to raise debentures. Some resolutions were handed to us to be brought forward at this meeting, but you are aware, gentlemen, that this is but an adjourned meeting, and I would refer you to Article 83 of the Articles of Association, which reads as follows:—

“The CHAIRMAN, with the consent of the meeting, shall have power to adjourn any meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. These resolutions we therefore did not circulate amongst the shareholders. While the directors, therefore, were not empowered by the Articles of Association to have these amendments submitted to this meeting, they wish to assure the shareholders that they have given the subject matter of them careful attention. I have already dealt with the question of issuing debentures. In regard to the charge of the Company, this point has been considered before, but as at that time and your directors now feel that the change would be inadvisable, as it would entail a considerable amount of labour, to say nothing of the expense to liquidating the Company and re-registration. In regard to the other resolution which has been submitted, our architects have undoubtedly had great difficulty with the contractor they employed, who has proved unsatisfactory, but as I mentioned at the last ordinary meeting, the directors have claimed the full penalty under the contract for the delay, and payment of this will be duly enforced. The directors do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by changing our architects. The delay which has occurred in the completion has no doubt been extremely annoying, but the work which you have all seen, is of the first quality, and has been well done. I, therefore, now beg to propose the following resolutions:—

1.—That the capital of the Company be increased to \$751,845 by the creation of twenty thousand additional ordinary shares of \$15 each to be called “further new shares.”

2.—That 10,000 of such further new shares be offered at par in the first instance to the members of the Company being on the register on the 30th day of April 1907 in the proportion of one further new share for every three existing shares held by them respectively and that such offer be made by notice specifying the number of shares to which the member is entitled and limiting a time within which the offer, if not accepted by payment in full, will be deemed to be declined and that the directors be empowered to dispose of the shares not taken in response to such offer as they consider expedient in the interests of the Company and that no fractional shares shall be issued.

3.—That such further new shares shall from date of payment rank for dividend and interest, and be in all respects *pari passu* with the existing new issue of the Company.

4.—That the remaining 10,000 of the 20,000 further new shares shall be issued at such time and upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem expedient.

Mr. Murphine seconded.

Mr. Michael supported the resolution. He paid a tribute to the work done by the directors, in rescuing the company from the verge of bankruptcy and putting it in its present strong position. He considered they should receive every support from the shareholders, and that it was not wise to be under-capitalized.

After questions by Messrs. Harvie and Hadley had been answered by the CHAIRMAN.

Mr. F. W. EVANS asked permission to move a resolution which had been sent in to the Directors, as an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN again pointed out that by the Articles of Association no fresh resolution or amendment could be proposed at an adjourned meeting. It was open to shareholders to vote for or against the resolution, of which due notice had been given.

Mr. EVANS pressed his point.

Mr. TRESDALE explained that the Articles of Association and Hongkong Ordinance were alike stringent in this point, as it would be unfair to shareholders who did not attend the meeting if something other than that formally set forth in the agenda by the regular period of notice were brought forward.

Mr. EVANS asked if he might mention what the resolution he wished to move was.

The CHAIRMAN had no objection.

Mr. EVANS explained that he was not opposed to the raising of new capital, but he wished the last resolution to read: “That the remaining

10,000 of the 20,000 further new shares shall be issued on such terms and conditions, if required, as shall be decided at a future meeting of shareholders.”

Mr. NEILSON supported the CHAIRMAN and legal adviser on the point that no fresh motion or amendment could be introduced. He supported also the motion for new capital on the ground that it was better to have a really first class building than to endeavour to cut down at the last moment.

The resolutions were put *en bloc* and carried with six dissentients.

This concluded the business.

THE SHANGHAI WATERWORKS CO., LD.

The Annual General Meeting of this Company was held at Shanghai on March 27th. Mr. A. McLeod (chairman) made the following remarks on the accounts:—The directors are pleased to be able to place before you a Statement of Accounts which shows again the progressive nature of the Company's business, and they anticipate that you will concur with them in considering that the year's operations show decidedly gratifying results. Taking first the credit side of our working account you will observe that our total revenue from all sources amounted to Tls. 436,936.38 as against Tls. 439,228.25 in 1905, an increase of Tls. 46,798.13 which will, I think, be viewed with satisfaction. On the other hand our expenses also show a rather heavy advance, caused principally by the higher prices we have had to pay for coal, the difference in cost in 1906 being rather over Tls. 10,000—we have not consumed more than in 1905, but the higher prices ruling during the past year accounts for the additional expenditure. It is however satisfactory to be able to state that for the current year our contract for fuel has been closed at lower rates and we estimate a saving of something approaching Tls. 6,000 on this item for 1907. Salaries and wages and miscellaneous expenses connected with the carrying on of our greatly extended business naturally must be higher in proportion to the increased work to be performed, and there is an increase in expenditure under this heading of about Tls. 12,000. The other items on the debit side of our working account show little or no alteration on those of last year and the net result of the year's working is that we have a credit balance of Tls. 318,931.97 to transfer to profit and loss account as against Tls. 300,758.26 in 1905. Profit and loss account includes the usual items, and after payment of the interim dividend of 15 per old and 5/- per new share in July last, deducting Tls. 15,000 for depreciation, and paying interest on debentures Tls. 35,000, there remains a balance of Tls. 286,193.11 available for distribution as against Tls. 210,346.11 in 1905. I think gentlemen, it is a matter for congratulation that the result of the year's operations leaves such a satisfactory result. Balance Sheet:—You will observe several alterations in this document as compared with that of the previous years. On the debit side our capital has been increased by the payment of further calls on the new issue and now stands at £290,200 at exchanged ruling on 31st December last, viz. 3,170—Tls. 1,879,204.06. Our reserve fund and depreciation account each stands at the substantial figure of Tls. 190,000 and our debenture issue Tls. 562,400. On the credit side, you will notice the considerable sum of Tls. 323,676.69 expended in the further purchase of real estate and extensions of mains, plant etc., and we have still some very large payments to make during the current year which the funds we have in hand will, we anticipate, be sufficient to meet, and it is probable it will be unnecessary to call up the final £5 per share on the new issue until 1908. At the suggestion of our auditors, we have made an alteration in stating the exchange adjustment account and in place of deducting the balance of the account from capital, we have added it to capital expenditure account, the result being the same, though it appears the latter is the more correct way of keeping the account. As shown in the report, we have now an amount of Tls. 286,193.11 to deal with and the directors recommend that it be appropriated as follows:—To payment of a final dividend of 40/- per share on the old issue and 19/2 on the new shares at exchange 3/-